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May 14, 2012

Mark Lere
Future Fisheries Improvement program
MFWP
1420 E 6th Ave
P.O. box 207001
Helena, MT 59620-0701

Dear Mark,

On behalf of the Big Hole Watershed Committee, I'd want to express my full support for the Beaverhead Conservation District's Swamp Creek siphon project in the Big Hole watershed.

The Big Hole Watershed Committee (BHWC) has long been involved in cooperative projects, helping improve habitat for Arctic grayling. This project will have significant benefits for Arctic grayling and is part of a larger community effort for Arctic grayling in the Big Hole watershed. This project fits with the BHWC's goals of improving habitat, instream flows, connectivity for fish (especially grayling), and improving irrigation efficiency. The BHWC is pleased to support this project and feel it will enhance the unique fish and wildlife resources while supporting our Montana ranching culture and way of life.

The Big Hole Watershed Committee is a community based, non-profit conservation organization dedicated to finding long term solutions to water use and management on the Big Hole River. Since 1995, we've been successful in bringing ranchers, sportsmen, conservation organizations, public utilities, outfitters/guides, local businesses and agencies together to address issues and find common ground.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Kevin Brown
Executive Director